

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
HOUSTON DIVISION**

Condon Trotter Jr.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Bureau of Collection Recovery, L.L.C., and
DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendant.

Civil Action No.: _____

**COMPLAINT
JURY**

For this Complaint, the Plaintiff, Condon Trotter Jr., by undersigned counsel, states as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. This action arises out of Defendants' repeated violations of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq. ("FDCPA"), and the invasions of Plaintiff's personal privacy by the Defendants and their agents in their illegal efforts to collect a consumer debt.

2. Supplemental jurisdiction exists pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

3. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in that the Defendants transact business in this District and a substantial portion of the acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

4. Plaintiff, Condon Trotter Jr. ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing in Houston, Texas, and is a "consumer" as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(3).

5. Defendant Bureau of Collection Recovery, L.L.C. (“Bureau”), is a business entity with an address of 7575 Corporate Way, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, 55344, operating as a collection agency, and is a “debt collector” as the term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6). Bureau at all times acted by and through one or more of the collectors.

ALLEGATIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL COUNTS

A. The Debt

6. Plaintiff incurred a financial obligation (the “Debt”) to a creditor (the “Creditor”).

7. The Debt arose from services provided by the Creditor which were primarily for family, personal or household purposes and which meets the definition of a “debt” under 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(5).

8. The Debt was purchased, assigned or transferred to Bureau for collection, or Bureau was employed by the Creditor to collect the Debt.

9. The Defendants attempted to collect the Debt and, as such, engaged in “communications” as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(2).

B. Bureau Engages in Harassment and Abusive Tactics

10. The Defendants telephoned Plaintiff almost every day.

11. The Defendants telephoned Plaintiff late at night and on weekends.

12. The Defendants telephoned Plaintiff’s daughters and discussed the Debt with them at least one of them.

13. The Defendants threatened to garnish Plaintiff’s wages.

14. The Defendants were rude and abusive when speaking to the Plaintiff and his daughters, stating, “You people, you do things and you don’t want to pay.”

C. Plaintiff Suffered Actual Damages

15. The Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer actual damages as a result of the Defendants' unlawful conduct.

16. As a direct consequence of the Defendants' acts, practices and conduct, the Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer from humiliation, anger, anxiety, emotional distress, fear, frustration and embarrassment.

17. The Defendants' conduct was so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

COUNT I

VIOLATIONS OF THE FDCPA 15 U.S.C. § 1692, et seq.

18. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

19. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(2) in that Defendants informed third parties of the nature of Plaintiff's debt and stated that the Plaintiff owed a debt.

20. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692b(3) in that Defendants contacted third parties in regards to the Plaintiff's debt on numerous occasions, without being asked to do so.

21. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(a)(1) in that Defendants contacted the Plaintiff before 8:00 a.m. and after 9:00 p.m.

22. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692c(b) in that Defendants communicated with individuals other than the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff's attorney, or a credit bureau.

23. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(2) in that Defendants used profane and abusive language when speaking with the consumer.

24. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692d(5) in that Defendants caused a phone to ring repeatedly and engaged the Plaintiff in telephone conversations, with the intent to annoy and harass.

25. The Defendants' conduct violated 15 U.S.C. § 1692e(4) in that Defendants threatened the Plaintiff with garnishment if the debt was not paid.

26. The foregoing acts and omissions of the Defendant constitute numerous and multiple violations of the FDCPA, including every one of the above-cited provisions.

27. The Plaintiff is entitled to damages as a result of Defendant's violations.

COUNT II

VIOLATIONS OF THE TEXAS DEBT COLLECTION ACT

TEX. FIN. CODE ANN. § 392, et al.

28. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

29. The Plaintiff is a "consumer" as defined by Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.001(1).

30. The Defendants are each a "debt collector" and a "third party debt collector" as defined by Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.001(6) and (7).

31. The Defendants used abusive and profane language when speaking with the Plaintiff, in violation of Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.302(1).

32. The Defendants caused a telephone to ring repeatedly, with the intent to annoy or abuse the Plaintiff, in violation of Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.302(4).

33. The Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief and actual damages pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.403(a)(1) and (2) and to remedies under Tex. Bus. & Comm. Code § 17.62 pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.404(a).

COUNT III

INVASION OF PRIVACY BY INTRUSION INTO PRIVATE AFFAIRS

34. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

35. The Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) defines intrusion upon seclusion as, “One who intentionally intrudes...upon the solitude or seclusion of another, or his private affairs or concerns, is subject to liability to the other for invasion of privacy, if the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person.”

36. Texas further recognizes the Plaintiff’s right to be free from invasions of privacy, thus Defendants violated Texas state law.

37. To establish a claim for invasion of privacy by intrusion into private affairs, the plaintiff must show: (1) the defendant intentionally intruded of the plaintiff’s solitude, seclusion, or private affairs; (2) the intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person; and (3) the plaintiff suffered an injury as a result of the defendant’s intrusion. *Valenzuela v. Aquino*, 853 S.W.2d 512, 513 (Tex. 1993).

38. Defendants intentionally intruded upon Plaintiff’s right to privacy by continually harassing Plaintiff with phone calls to his home and to his daughters.

39. The telephone calls made by Defendants to Plaintiff were so persistent and repeated with such frequency as to be considered, “hounding the plaintiff,” and, “a substantial

burden to her existence,” thus satisfying the Restatement of Torts, Second, § 652(b) and Texas law requirements for an invasion of privacy.

40. The conduct of the Defendants in engaging in the illegal collection activities resulted in multiple invasions of privacy in such a way as would be considered highly offensive to a reasonable person.

41. As a result of the intrusions and invasions, Plaintiff is entitled to actual damages in an amount to be determined at trial from Defendants.

42. All acts of Defendants and their agents were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, Defendants are subject to punitive damages.

COUNT IV

INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

43. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein at length.

44. To establish a cause of action for intentional infliction of emotional distress, a plaintiff must show: (1) the defendant acted intentionally or recklessly; (2) the defendant’s conduct was extreme and outrageous; (3) the defendant’s conduct was directed at the plaintiff or at a third person in the plaintiff’s presence; (4) the defendant’s conduct proximately caused the plaintiff emotional distress; and (5) the emotional distress suffered by the plaintiff was severe. *Standard Fruit & Vegetable Co. v. Johnson*, 985 S.W.2d 62, 65 (Tex. 1998).

45. The acts, practices and conduct engaged in by the Defendants *vis-à-vis* the Plaintiff was so outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized community.

46. The foregoing conduct constitutes the tort of intentional infliction of emotional distress under the laws of the State of Texas.

47. All acts of Defendants and the Collectors complained of herein were committed with malice, intent, wantonness, and recklessness, and as such, Defendants are subject to imposition of punitive damages.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendants:

1. Actual damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(1) against Defendants;
2. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 for each violation pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(2)(A) against Defendants;
3. Costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1692k(a)(3) against Defendants;
4. Injunctive relief pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.403(a)(1);
5. Actual damages pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.403(a)(2);
6. Remedies under Tex. Bus. & Comm. Code § 17.62 pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code Ann. § 392.404(a);
7. Actual damages from Defendants for the all damages including emotional distress suffered as a result of the intentional, reckless, and/or negligent FDCPA violations and intentional, reckless, and/or negligent invasions of privacy in an amount to be determined at trial for Plaintiff;
8. Punitive damage; and

9. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: May 25, 2010

Respectfully submitted,
By: /s/ Diana P. Larson
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